



Faith Alone
3rd in “Sola” Series
Romans 3:21-26 p. 941
Oct 22, 2017
Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this sermon we listen to the church’s cry for “Faith Alone,” and apply it to our life and ministry.

The Text: Romans 3:21-26

1) “Faith Alone” is clearly derived from God’s Word: Romans 3:21-26.

- a) *Everything God wants to do in you he does “through faith in Jesus Christ” (vv. 21-22a).*
- b) *Faith does not occur in a vacuum, but emerges in the context of the knowledge and conviction of sin (vv. 22b-23).*
- c) *Faith has Christ as its object – his person and work (vv. 24-26).*

2) “Faith Alone” has several applications for the Christian and the church.

- a) Faith in God involves belief and trust in Christ.
“Faith that receives and rests on Christ and his righteousness is the only instrument of justification” (LBC 11.2).
- b) Faith rests on divine testimony.
Faith is ordinarily produced by the ministry of the Word. By this same ministry and by the administration of baptism and the Lord’s supper, prayer, and other means appointed by God, faith is increased and strengthened” (LBC 14.1). “By this faith Christians believe to be true everything revealed in the Word, recognizing it as the authority of God himself” (LBC 14.2).
- c) Faith is a supernatural divine gift.
This faith is not self-generated; it is the gift of God” (LBC 11.1). “The grace of faith, by which the elect are enabled to believe so that their souls are saved, is the work of the Spirit of Christ in their hearts” (LBC 14.1).
- d) Faith is always connected to the way we live.
“Faith ... does not occur by itself in the person justified, but it is always accompanied by every other saving grace. It is not a dead faith but works through love” (LBC 11.2).
- e) True faith sees Jesus not only as the source of salvation, but also as the meaning of life.
“But the principal acts of saving faith focus directly on Christ—accepting, receiving, and resting upon him alone for justification, sanctification, and eternal life, by virtue of the covenant of grace” (LBC 14.2).
- f) A real faith may still have times of difficulty and doubt, but it will mature and endure.
“This faith may exist in varying degrees so that it may be either weak or strong. Yet even in its weakest form, it is different in kind or nature ... from the faith and common grace of temporary believers. Therefore, faith may often be attacked and weakened, but it gains the victory. It matures in many to the point that they attain full assurance through Christ, who is both the founder and perfecter of our faith” (LBC 14.3).

Response

- In light of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, how can we make sure we are living by Faith Alone?

Sunday Text Questions for Romans 3:21-26 (Faith Alone)

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- 1) Starter Question: What was your experience of coming to faith in Christ?

- 2) Read the text aloud and discuss together any significant observations or issues needing clarification.

- 3) This text is loaded with important theological terms. What are they and can you offer a definition for them (e.g., righteousness of God)?

- 4) Based upon v. 21, how does the Old Testament bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ?

- 5) What does v. 22 mean when it says that our faith is to be “in Jesus Christ?”

- 6) V. 23 is an oft quoted verse. What does this verse explain about sin, its offense against God, and its reach?

- 7) How do vv. 24-26 describe and explain the gracious, saving work of God through Jesus Christ?

- 8) How is “faith” a combination of the mind (belief) and the heart (trust)? What does that look like in real life?

- 9) The London Baptist Confession of 1689 believes that faith is a supernatural gift, that faith is itself a gift of God (see John 6:44). What do you think?

- 10) What is the connection between faith and works?

Further study this week: Hebrews 11 on the hall of faith (Mon); Hebrews 12:1-17 on Jesus’ perfection of our faith (Tues); John 3:16-21 on Jesus’ mission for our faith (Wed); Romans 10 (esp. vv. 9-10) on the act of faith (Thurs); James 2:14-26 on faith and works (Fri).